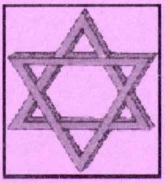

RELIGIONS AND CULTURES

FACULTY OF ARTS AND SCIENCE

COURSE GUIDE

2019-2020

CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY

DEPARTMENT OF

RELIGIONS AND CULTURES

FACULTY OF ARTS AND SCIENCE

COURSE GUIDE

2019-2020

DEPARTMENT OF
RELIGIONS AND CULTURES
UNDERGRADUATE COURSE GUIDE
2019-2020

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Images on cover page taken from: http://www.alignmentsonline.com/GraphicRes/crscent1.jpg
www.kcmetro.cc.mo.us/longview/socsci/philosophy/religion/symbols.htm

This course guide has been prepared months in advance of the 2019-2020 academic year and information contained herein is subject to change. Students are advised not to purchase any texts without the approval of the professor concerned.
Due to the renumbering of courses in the Department, students should consult the list of equivalent undergraduate courses in the back of the 2019-2020 undergraduate calendar.

FACULTY

A list of the full-time faculty follows below. All possess degrees from universities and/or schools of advanced studies that represent the best academic centres for the study of religion in North America. All have published books that have made a contribution to their particular fields of study, have published in learned journals and given papers at learned societies. They have also won a reputation among their students for being good teachers, concerned about the quality of instruction at Concordia University, as well as for being "available" and committed to the development of a more meaningful student life.

Full-Time Faculty

Chair
Carly Daniel-Hughes, Ph.D. (Harvard)

Professors
Lynda Clarke, Ph.D. (McGill)
Lorenzo DiTommaso, Ph.D. (McMaster)
(sabbatical January – June 2020)
Richard Foltz, Ph.D. (Harvard)
Norma Joseph, Ph.D. (Concordia)
Leslie Orr, Ph.D. (McGill)
Norman Ravvin, Ph.D. (Univ. of Toronto)
Ira Robinson, Ph.D. (Harvard) – Chair in Quebec and Canadian Jewish Studies

Associate Professors
Naftali Cohn, Ph.D. (University of Pennsylvania)
Marc des Jardins, Ph.D. (McGill)
Hillary Kaell, Ph.D. (Harvard)

Assistant Professors
Marc Lalonde, Ph.D. (Concordia)

INTRODUCTION TO THE DEPARTMENT

General Objectives

The Department of Religions and Cultures is dedicated to the academic study of religions and other social and cultural phenomena in so far as they have been influenced or affected by religions. We are interested in the comparative study of many religions. Although we do study how many religious traditions articulate and defend their own self-understandings, we treat these theologies and buddhologies academically and comparatively.

Nature of Religious Studies

The academic study of religion is a multi-disciplinary enterprise. It involves the historical examination of religious movements, the literary analyses of their literatures, philosophical reflections on beliefs and teachings, the social scientific investigations of their rituals, practices, texts, and institutions, the psychological study of their participants and ethical inquiries regarding both their moral writings and social roles.

Correspondingly, the faculty in the department have been trained in a number of academic disciplines including history, sociology, anthropology, literary studies, philosophy, psychology and theology as well as in the study of particular religious traditions.

KNOWLEDGE OF TWO MAJOR RELIGIOUS TRADITIONS

The Department believes that every Major or Honours student in Religion or in Judaic Studies should possess, at time of graduation, a knowledge of at least two major religious traditions. For example, the student who is pursuing a Major in Judaic Studies will take some courses in a religious tradition other than Judaism. This basic principle reinforces the emphasis upon the centrality of the discipline of the History of Religions. A particular religious tradition can best be understood in the context of the general religious history of humankind.

DEPARTMENTAL PROGRAMMES

The Department of Religions and Cultures offers at the undergraduate level: minors, majors and honours programmes in Religion and in Judaic Studies. The degree requirements for all of these programmes can be found below. We also offer several graduate programmes: an M.A. in Religions and Cultures, an M.A. in Judaic Studies, and a Ph.D. in Religion. For further information on our graduate programmes, please contact the graduate programme assistant at 848-2424 ext.2077.

Women and Religion

As part of the Department of Religions and Cultures' undergraduate curriculum, a concentration in **Women, Gender, and Sexuality** is offered. A variety of special courses are included in the regular program for the BA major in Religions and Cultures. Religions and Cultures majors can focus on this area for either the primary or secondary concentration requirements.

The study of women and religion is a growing field in which the Department of Religions and Cultures of Concordia University has long been a leader. This structured concentration solidifies our commitment to this field and enables us to prepare students in a systematic and consistent fashion. The concentration furthers the work of the department in that it will allow students to pursue course work from a comparative, cross-cultural and multi- tradition perspective. The study of the role of women in the history and practice of religion introduces our students to an exciting and vital area of study.

Degree Requirements

60 B.A. Honours in Religions and Cultures:

12 In a language related to thesis; or in a related discipline such as: Anthropology, Classics, English Literature, History, Philosophy, Sociology, Women's Studies.
6 Chosen from RELI 209[3], 210[3], 214[3], 215[3]
21 From area of primary concentration (see areas of concentration below)
6 From area of secondary concentration (see areas of concentration below)
6 RELI elective credits at 300 or 400 level
3 RELI 409[3]
6 RELI 410[6]

42 B.A. Major in Religions and Cultures

6 Chosen from RELI 209[3], 210[3], 214[3] or 215[3]
18 From area of primary concentration (see areas of concentration below)
6 From area of secondary concentration (see areas of concentration below)
9 RELI elective credits at 300 or 400 level
3 RELI 409[3]

24 Minor in Religions and Cultures

6 Chosen from RELI 209[3], 210[3], 214[3] or 215[3]
18 RELI elective credits chosen in consultation with Departmental advisor, excluding RELI 209, 210, 214, and 215

60 B.A. Honours in Judaic Studies

9 Chosen from: HEBR 210[6], HEBR 241[3], HEBR 242[3], RELI 401[3]
Students who demonstrate fluency in Hebrew by a written examination may substitute RELI courses at the 300 and 400 level approved by the departmental advisor.
3 Chosen from RELI 209[3], 210[3], 214[3], 215[3]
12 Chosen from RELI 220[3], 301[3], 326[3], 327[3], 328[3]
27 Electives chosen from courses in Judaism at the 200, 300, or 400 level. It is recommended that students take at least one 400-level course. Up to 12 credits may be substituted with courses in a related tradition and 12 credits with courses in a related language such as Hebrew, Aramaic, or Yiddish, for a maximum of 15 credits combined
3 RELI 409[3]
6 RELI 410[6]

42 B.A. Major in Judaic Studies

9 Hebrew language, typically chosen from: HEBR 210[6], HEBR 241[3], HEBR 242[3], RELI 401[3]
Students who demonstrate fluency in Hebrew may substitute religion courses at the 300 or 400 level approved by the undergraduate advisor.
3 Chosen from RELI 209[3], 210[3], 214[3], 215[3]
12 RELI 220[3], 301[3], 326[3], 328[3]

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15 Electives chosen from courses in Judaism at the 200, 300, or 400 level. It is recommended that students take at least one 400-level course. Up to six credits may be substituted with courses in related traditions and related languages such as Hebrew, Aramaic, or Yiddish.

3 RELI 409[3]

24 Minor in Judaic Studies

3 Chosen from RELI 209[3], 210[3], 214[3] a 215[3]

9 Chosen from RELI 220[3], 301[3], 326[3], 327[3], 328[3]

12 Electives chosen from courses in Judaism at the 200, 300, or 400 level. Up to six credits may be substituted with courses in related traditions and related languages such as Hebrew, Aramaic, or Yiddish

24 Minor in Iranian Studies

12 Chosen from RELI 227[3], 305[3], 306[3], 313[3], 317[3], 318[3]

12 Chosen from any courses related to Iran in various departments at Concordia approved by the undergraduate advisor, including those not already taken at the first level of requirement. Examples of courses offered at various times include Pahlavi and other ancient Iranian languages, Modern Persian, Iranian Mythology, Manichaeism, Avesta, and Classical Persian Music. Students may also request credit for Iran-related courses taught at other Quebec universities.

Areas of Concentration

A - Asian Religions (18 credits) - chosen from any of the following:

6 Chosen from RELI 224[3], 225[3], 226[3], 360[3], 361[3], 362[3]

12 Chosen from any courses on the subject of Asian religions, including Islam. This may include courses not already taken from the first level of requirement. It is recommended that students take at least one 400-level course.

NOTE: With permission of the advisor, Major in Religions and Cultures concentrating in Asian religions may count up to six credits of a related language study, such as Chinese or Sanskrit. Honours students concentrating in Asian religions may also count an additional six credits of a related language study toward their program.

B - Christianity (18 credits)

6 RELI 223[3], RELI 302[3]

12 Chosen from any courses on the subject of Christianity. It is recommended that students take at least one 400-level course.

NOTE: Majors in Religions and Cultures students concentrating in Christianity may count up to six credits of a related language study, such as Greek, Latin, or Coptic. Honours students concentrating in Christianity may also count an additional six credits of a related language study toward their program.

C - Judaism (18 credits)

9 Chosen from RELI 220[3], 301[3], 326[3], 327[3], 328[3]

9 Chosen from any courses on the subject of Judaism. This may include courses not already taken from the first level of requirement. It is recommended that students take at least one 400-level course.

NOTE: With the permission of the advisor, Major in Religions and Cultures students concentrating in Judaism may count up to six credits of a related language study, such as Hebrew, Aramaic, or Yiddish. Honours students concentrating in Judaism may also count an additional six credits of a related language study toward their program.

Theo 202
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D – Women, Gender, and Sexuality (18 credits)

3 Chosen from RELI 233[3], 380[3]

15 Chosen from any religion courses on women, gender, body, sexuality, or food. This may include courses not already taken at the first level of requirement. It is recommended that students take at least one 400-level course.

E – Islam (18 credits)

6 Chosen from: RELI 224[3], 316[3], 319[3]

12 Chosen from any courses on the subject of Islam. This may include a course not already taken at the first level of requirement. It is recommended that students take at least one 400-level course.

NOTE: With permission, Major in Religions and Cultures students concentrating in Islam may count up to six credits of a related language study, such as Arabic and Persian. Honours students concentrating in Islam must take at least six credits of Arabic and may also count an additional six credits of Arabic or another language related to Islam toward their program. Students who demonstrate competency in Arabic by a written examination may substitute Religion courses approved by the departmental advisor.

Southern Asia Studies

The Department of Religions and Cultures participates with History, Political Science and several other departments in the Southern Asia Studies Programme which offers a major and a minor as follows:

- ***MAJOR (42 credits)***
- **6 credits** History 261 and Religion 215
- **3 credits** Chosen from any relevant course in the Department of History
- **3 credits** Chosen from any relevant course in the Department of Political Science
- **6 credits** Chosen from any relevant courses in the Department of Religions and Cultures
- **24 credits** Chosen from relevant courses in any department including but not limited to History; Religion; Political Science; Classics, Modern Languages and Linguistics; Economics; English; Geography, Planning and Environment; Sociology and Anthropology; the Faculty of Fine Arts; and the John Molson School of Business. Students may also request credits for Southern Asia related courses (including languages) taught at other Quebec universities.

- ***MINOR (24 credits)***
- **6 credits** History 261 and Religion 215
- **3 credits** Chosen from any relevant course in the Department of History, Political Science, Economics or English
- **6 credits** Chosen from any relevant courses in the Department of Religions and Cultures

9 credits Chosen from relevant courses in any department (see above) Please see the Undergraduate Calendar for further details on the Southern Asia Studies Programme.

30 Certificate in Iranian Studies

18 Chosen from RELI 227[3], 305[3], 306[3], 313[3], 317[3], 318[3]

12 Chosen from any courses related to Iran in various departments at Concordia approved by the undergraduate advisor, including those not already taken at the first level of requirement. Examples of courses offered at various times include Pahlavi and other ancient Iranian languages, Modern Persian, Iranian Mythology, Manichaeism, Avesta, and Classical Persian Music. Students may also request credit for Iran-related courses taught at other Quebec Universities.

For more information, contact:
Dr. Marc Lalonde: marc.lalonde@concordia.ca

SERVICES AVAILABLE TO STUDENTS

Student Advising
Students who have questions concerning their programme of study or need assistance relating to academic difficulties can contact the Department either by phone (848-2424, ext. 2065) or email religion@concordia.ca and make an appointment to meet with an undergraduate advisor.

Undergraduate Listserve
Religion students and students taking one or more Religion courses have the option of being added to the Religion Undergraduate listserve. This listserve helps to keep students informed of upcoming events, guest speakers and academic deadlines.

Department Web Page
Visit the Department's webpage and find information on the various courses offered, course outlines, faculty research interests, guest lectures and conferences, information on our graduate programmes plus much more:
https://www.concordia.ca/artsci/religions-cultures.html

THE BOYD SINYARD AWARD

Each year the Boyd Sinyard award is given to the outstanding graduating student in Religions and Cultures. The award is named after the first chairman of the Department of Religion at Sir George Williams University.

CONCORDIA RELIGION STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION (CRSA)

If you are studying within the Department of Religions and Cultures (i.e. if you are an Honours, Major, Minor or just taking a course offered by the department), you are a member of the CRSA. CRSA is a student-administered organization dedicated to fostering community and expanding the educational experience of all Religion students. Each year the executive branch of CRSA (five students elected to plan and administer CRSA affairs) offers Religion students the chance to meet each other and faculty at various social gatherings, as well as the opportunity to enliven their education by attending CRSA sponsored lectures given by learned academics and religious thinkers from all parts of the world. CRSA members are urged to take advantage of the student lounge located in the basement of annex R (2050 Mackay). This is a place where

students can study, hang out or use the free phone. If you would like more information about CRSA, leave a message in our mailbox at the Department of Religions and Cultures.

RELI 214/1 - A (3 credits) T.J. 1315-1600
RELIGIONS OF THE WEST TA Sebastian
Instructor: Mana

This course surveys the history, doctrines, institutions, and practices of religions that arose in Western Asia, including Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. The course examines contemporary forms of religious life in those parts of the world where these traditions have spread, as well as indigenous religions. The course explores the religious activities and experiences of both women and men within these various traditions. **Note**: *Students who have received credit for RELI 213 may not take this course for credit.*

RELI 226/1 - A (3 credits) M.W. 1015-1300
INTRODUCTION TO BUDDHISM
Instructor: Perwaiz TA Purna

This course introduces students to the diversity of forms of Buddhism that have emerged in history and are practiced today. It examines those aspects that are shared in common by Buddhists all over the world, including reverence for the Buddha, support of the monastic order, and adherence to the Buddha's teachings. The course explores the ways in which these ideals and beliefs are expressed through such Buddhist practices as worship, study, pilgrimage, and meditation. **Note:** *Students who have received credit for RELI 350 or 364 may not take this course credit.*

FALL 2019

RELI 210/2 – A (3 credits) W.F.0845-1000
RELIGION IN PRACTICE
Instructor:

This course focuses on the day-to-day practice of religious traditions. Included are the expression of religious experiences through art, music, and scripture; transmission of these religious expressions through ritual, worship and mystical/ecstatic practices; and the construction and maintenance of different types of religious authority and communal identities. **Note**: *Students who have received credit for RELI 211 may not take this course for credit.*

RELI 220/2- A (3 credits) W.F. 1145-1300
INTRODUCTION TO JUDAISM
Instructor: Ira Robinson

This course will examine the history of Jews and of Judaism from ancient times until the present. It will emphasize the continuities, changes and interrelationships with respect to Jewish social, religious and intellectual life through the ages. It will also carefully examine the varieties of belief and practice in contemporary Jewish life. **Note:** *Students who have received credit for RELI 222 may not take this course for credit.*

RELI 223/2 - A (3 credits) T.J.1015-1130
INTRODUCTION TO CHRISTIANITY
Instructor: Carly Daniel-Hughes

This course provides an introductory survey of key developments and enduring structures in the historical evolution of Christianity. It examines the variety of expressions of faith embodied in different churches and traces the ways in which beliefs, institutions, symbols, and rituals have in the past and continue today to carry forward the Christian tradition as a world religion in a variety of cultural contexts.

RELI 224/4 – A (3 credits) W.F.1315-1430
INTRODUCTION TO ISLAM
Instructor: Lynda Clarke

This course explores the religious tradition of Islam through the beliefs and practices of the vast number of Muslims scattered throughout the world – in the Middle East, South and Southeast Asia, North America, and other places. It examines the scriptures and common rituals or "pillars" of the religion, as well as expressions of life and culture in the past and present such as the law (shariah), mystical orders, and the arts

RELI 225/2 – A (3 credits) T.J.1445-1600
INTRODUCTION TO HINDUISM
Instructor: Linh

This course surveys Hinduism in its diverse history, sects, schools of thought, sacred texts, spiritual practices, and contemporary interpretations. We will focus on several prominent dimensions of the tradition, including the Hindu temple, mysticism and metaphysics in the Upanisads, karma and rebirth, dharma (religious duty and the cosmic/social order), moksha (liberation), gender and caste, devotional traditions, and narrative literatures. **Note**: *Students who have received credit for this topic under a RELI 298 number may not take this course for credit.*

RELI 300/2 – AA (3 credits) M.1800-20:15
CULTS AND RELIGIOUS CONTROVERSY
Instructor: Lorenzo DiTommaso

This course takes a sociological and historical approach towards understanding new religious movements (NRMs), popularly known as "cults". The course examines the reasons for their controversial status in society, and undertakes a survey of the beliefs, rituals, leadership, membership, recruitment strategies, and social organization of a number of specific NRMs. **Note:** *Students who have received credit for RELI 217 or for this topic under a RELI 298 number may not take this course for credit.*

RELI 312/2 – A (3 credits) M.W. 1445-1600
JUSTICE AND SOCIAL CONFLICT IN A GLOBALIZED WORLD
Instructor: Marc Lalonde

This course considers ethical issues arising in the context of social, legal, and political relations. These issues are discussed in relation to both traditional and contemporary moral perspectives, both religious and non-religious. Topics covered typically include discussions of social and economic inequality, welfare, poverty, just punishment, business ethics, public ethics, economic development, and sustainable development. **Note:** *Students who have received credit for RELI 332 or RELZ 312 may not take this course for credit.*

RELI 313/2 - A (3 credits) T.J. 1315-1430
ZOROASTRIANISM
Instructor:

Zoroastrianism, an ancient but little-known faith now counting no more than a few hundred thousand practitioners living mainly in India and Iran, is one of the most significant traditions in the history of religions. It provided a world-view and ethical framework later adopted by Judaism, Christianity, and Islam and shares significant common roots with Hinduism. The Zoroastrians of India — the Parsis — have continued to play an influential role in shaping that country's development in modern times. This course covers the 3,000-year history of Zoroastrianism, including controversies surrounding its origins, its contributions to other religions, its eventual decline and the surviving global Zoroastrian diaspora of contemporary times.

RELI 325/2 - A (3 credits) M.W.1145-1300
PROPHETS, REBELS, AND SAINTS: OSCAR ROMERO
Instructor: Marc Lalonde

This course, which varies in focus from year to year, investigates the lives of controversial or influential women and men in the history of different religious traditions. Going beyond mere biography, the course situates particular figures within their social and cultural contexts, while dealing with how such prominent figures were viewed, portrayed, and used by others. Specific topics for this course are stated in the Undergraduate Class Schedule; examples are Moses, Jesus and Mary.

RELI 331/2 – A (3 credits) T.J. 1015-1130
LITERATURE AND THE HOLOCAUST
Instructor: Norman Ravvin

Religious, historical, literary, and political contexts have been applied to come to terms

with the events of the Holocaust. All of these are relevant as students read important and provocative novels dealing with such issues as ethics, the relationship between art and history, the use of humour and popular cultural forms, as well as the way that storytelling helps direct our understanding of events that are often said to be incomprehensible. The wider impact of fiction dealing with the Holocaust on the popular media, including film, CD-ROMs, video, and news reporting, is also considered. **Note**: *Students who have received credit for this topic under a RELI 398 number may not take this course for credit.*

RELI 332/2 – A (3 credits) T.J. 13:15-14:30
CANADIAN JEWISH LITERATURE (xlist ENGL 398A)
Instructor: Norman Ravvin

This course explores the Jewish voice in Canadian literature which can be seen to be the first opening toward a multicultural tradition in this country. Writers such as A.M. Klein, Mordecai Richler, Henry Kreisel, and Leonard Cohen created an English-language tradition of Jewish writing that is varied, provocative, and lively. Students look at novels, short stories, some poetry, memoir, and criticism. Students also consider non-Jewish authors, such as Gwethalyn Graham and Mavis Gallant, who were among the first to write about Jewish characters for an English-speaking Canadian audience. This course allows students to consider issues related to Canadian identity and culture, ethnic studies, and multiculturalism alongside literary questions.

RELI 344/2 - A (3 credits) M.W.1015-1130
HINDU MYTH AND NARRATIVE
Instructor: Sarah Pierce Taylor

This course approaches Hinduism through its narrative literature, especially the great epics (the *Mahabharata* and *Ramayana*) and mythological texts (*Puranas* — the "Ancient Books"). Through stories of gods, devotees, villains, and heroes, the course explores the development of significant themes in the Hindu tradition, from ethics and philosophy to asceticism and devotion. An important focus of the course is the enduring cultural significance of myth and the epics, as retold through the ages in a variety of languages, cultural contexts, and media, including classical and vernacular texts, the oral tradition, drama, dance, and cinema.

RELI 362/2 - A (3 credits) M.W.1145-1300
RELIGIONS OF TIBET
Instructor: Marc des Jardins

The goal of this course is to familiarize students with current issues in Tibetan studies and to enhance understanding of Tibetan religion in Tibet, China and the rest of the world. It examines the "nameless" popular religions of Tibet, including mountain cults, shamanism, spirit possession and a variety of manifestations of popular religion. Students become familiar with the main schools of Tibetan Buddhism and the Bon religion, their history, dogma, lineages, philosophical enquiries, ritual and ascetic practices. **Note:** *Students who have received credit for this topic under a RELI 398 number may not take this course for credit.*

RELI 372/2 – A (3 credits) T.J. 1315-1430
RELIGION AND THE BODY
Instructor:

This study of religious attitudes to the human body focuses on the body as a foundation for religious symbolism, religious community and identity, ritual, and religious experience. The course examines these problems with reference to various religious traditions. Issues examined include purification of the body; eating; mortification and mutilation of the body; attitudes towards dead bodies and physical immortality; attitudes towards bodies as gendered; embodied spirituality and incarnation.

RELI 378/4 - A (3 credits) T.J. 1145-1300
DEATH AND DYING
Instructor: Hillary Kaell

This course provides a comparative perspective on the variety of conceptions and practices related to death and dying that are found in different world religions. In addition, the course considers how people in contemporary North American society utilise traditional religious concepts and rituals, scientific understandings and medical procedures, or innovative combinations of ideas and practices to cope with, and make sense of, the problem of death. Lectures, discussions and some small group work will constitute the major teaching methods. Guest lecturers will be invited. Students should complete the course with some general understanding of, and critical appreciation for, the ways in which different religious traditions explain death and its attendant issues, and how these might assist individuals in coping with their own death or that of others.

RELI 381/2 – A (3 credits) T.J.1445-1600
WOMEN AND RELIGION: JUDAISM
Instructor: Norma Joseph

This course explores the status and religious roles of women within the Judaic tradition. Its focus is on the practice of the religion, especially the ritual and legal spheres. The relationship between common practice, popular attitudes, and formal legal principles is examined in order to inquire into issues of gender and religion

RELI 383/2 – A (3 credits) J.1800-2015
WOMEN AND RELIGION: ISLAM
Instructor: Lynda Clarke

This course explores past and present debates among Muslims about the ideal status of women in Islam. The historical and legal background — the material of the debate — is examined first. The class then considers how a variety of discourses, ranging from conservative to Muslim-feminist, treat and manipulate this material.

RELI 398/2 –AA (3 credits) T.1800-2015
(xlisted HIST 398 BB)
SELECTED TOPICS IN RELIGION
THE SILK ROAD
Instructor: Richard Foltz

The Silk Road is a concept used to refer to a network of overland trade routes that linked the Mediterranean, China, and India from around the beginning of the Common Era to the

fifteenth century. A conduit for culture as well as material goods, the Silk Road played a major role in the development and transmission of Buddhism, Christianity, Manichaeism, and Islam. Iranian, Indic, Chinese, and shamanistic religions were also part of this dynamic mix.

RELI 398/2 –A (3 credits) M .1315-1530
SELECTED TOPICS IN RELIGION
APOCALYPTICISM IN POPULAR CULTURE
Instructor: Lorenzo DiTommaso

Apocalyptic thinking saturates daily life in the twenty-first century. This seminar explores the categories, themes, rhetoric, and functions of traditional apocalyptic speculation as they are expressed in the contemporary vernacular. Special attention is paid to i) apocalypticisim in popular culture (including film + anime, novels + manga, music + performance art, video games, graffiti + street art), and ii) the global resurgence of strong religion and the way in which apocalyptic thinking has enabled the welding of fundamentalist theologies with nativist nationalisms.

RELI 398/2 - B (3 credits) M . W . 1445-1600
SELECTED TOPICS IN RELIGION
HISTORY AND CULTURE IN ISRAELI CINEMA
Instructor: Andrea

This course provides an introduction to the study of Israel by exploring various topics in Israeli cinema, such as Zionism, religion vs. secularism, gender issues, conflict, aging, social inequality, Arab-Jewish relations, the impact of the Holocaust on Israeli society, and dealing with conflicted identities. The movies engaged in this course represent a variety of genres – drama, documentary, cartoon, and comedy – that help to problematize major social, cultural, and political issues that we explore in the course of the semester.

RELI 398/2– BB (3 credits) Winter J.. 1800-2015
SELECTED TOPICS IN RELIGION
ANIMAL RIGHTS AND SUSTAINABILITY
(xlisted LOYC 398F)
Instructor: Richard Foltz

Humans are animals, or are they? The Western cultural tradition has long treated humans and animals as separate categories, with different systems of ethics and values applied to each. How cultures perceive the relationship between animals and humans affects choices about diet, understandings of our place in the world, and increasingly, issues of habitat reservation, environmental degradation, and the ethics of scientific research. In this seminar-format course we will discuss how human-animal relationships have been perceived and justified in various cultures and how they are being debated and re-imagined today.

RELI 409/2 – AA (3 credits) M.1800-2015
METHODOLOGY AND THE STUDY OF RELIGION
Instructor: Marc Lalonde
Prerequisite: Permission of the department

This class explores the conceptual and practical foundations that have established the discipline and study of religion as it has developed over the last century or so. At the conceptual level we will be concerned to enquire: how have scholars gone about

the study of religion? What sorts of approaches and methods have they relied on? What are the suppositions of these approaches and methods? What kinds of languages and philosophies have been used to explain such scholarly efforts? We will also attend to the various interests that have inevitably guided such research. What are these interests? What are their sources and inspiration? How are they related to wider social, cultural, and historical realities? Thus ours will be a critical examination of religious studies as we endeavour to understand, analyze, and situate the component parts that make up the method and study of religion today. However, we will also be concerned to put these critiques into practice. Toward that end, a portion of this course will be devoted to a guided fieldwork project.

WINTER 2019

RELI 209/4 – A (3 credits) M.W. 1445-1600
THE RELIGIOUS IMAGINATION
Instructor: Marc Lalonde

This course explores the conceptual elements that underlie the religious experience. These elements include the notion of the sacred, beliefs, cosmologies and myths, the origins and understanding of evil, ethics and salvation. **Note:** *Students who have received credit for RELI 211 may not take this course for credit.*

RELI 215/2 – A (3 credits) W . F . 0845-1000
RELIGIONS OF ASIA
Instructor:

This course surveys the history, doctrines, institutions, and practices of religions that have arisen in and spread throughout Asia, including Hinduism, Buddhism, and the religions of China and Japan. The course explores the religious activities and experiences of both women and men within these traditions. **Note***: Students who have received credit for RELI 213 or RELZ 215 may not take this course for credit.*

RELI 216/4– EC (3 credits) online
ENCOUNTERING RELIGIONS
Instructor:

This course serves as an introduction to some of the religions of today's world, and explores several contemporary contexts where people of diverse religious backgrounds come into contact with one another. **Note:** *Students who have received credit for this topic under a RELI 298 number may not take this course for credit.*

RELI 227/4 – AA (3 credits) Fall J. 1800-2015
INTRODUCTION TO IRANIAN CIVILIZATION
(xlist HIST 298AA)
Instructor: Richard Foltz

Iran has played a central role in world history, giving rise to Zoroastrianism, Manichaeism, and the Baha'i faith, as well as numerous sects. Iranian culture has also played a major role in informing and transforming Judaism, Christianity, Buddhism and Islam. This course covers the long history of Iranian civilization and its influence on peoples from the Mediterranean world to South and East Asia in the realms of religion, literature, architecture, and the arts. **Note**: *Students who have received credit for RELI 412 or for this topic under a RELI 298 number may not take this course for credit.*

RELI 233/4 - A (3 credits) T.J.1445-1600
INTRODUCTION TO WOMEN & RELIGION
Instructor: Norma Joseph

This introduction to the particular problems and issues in the study of women and religion uses case studies from various religious traditions. The course presents a survey of the different levels of participation, the complex ritual activities, and the intriguing divine imagery associated with women that are found in many religious traditions. Questions pertaining to the contemporary feminist discourse on such topics as witchcraft, matriarchy, and goddess religions are also explored.

RELI 308/4 – A (3 credits) T.J. 1145-1300
CHRISTIANITY IN THE UNITED STATES: HISTORY AND PRACTICE
Instructor: Hillary Kaell

This course introduces students to the history of Christianity in the United States, from the 1630s to the present, with an emphasis on the modern period. It traces how the U.S. has become the most religious country in the developed world and explores how Americans understand and practice Christianity. It covers key historical moments and movements, including Puritanism, revivals and awakenings, missions, abolition and slavery, fundamentalism, anti-Communism and Pentecostalism. **Note**: *Students who have received credit for this topic under a RELI 398 number may not take this course for credit.*

RELI 310/4 – A (3 credits) M.W. 1145-1300
SELF AND OTHER: IDENTITY AND ETHICAL DEVELOPMENT
Instructor: Marc Lalonde

This course considers ethical issues arising in the context of personal and interpersonal relations, families and friendships, and health and medical care. These issues are discussed in relation to traditional and contemporary moral perspectives, both religious and non-religious. Topics covered may vary from year to year, but may include discussons of conscience and career, privacy, sexual relations, harassment, substance abuse, abortion, euthanasia, and gay and lesbian relations.

RELI 311/4 – A (3 credits) T.J. 1445-1600
GLOBAL CHRISTIANITY
Instructor: Hillary Kaell

Christianity's "centre" has shifted to the global south. This course examines contemporary Christianity in its many forms around the world. It pays special attention to how people, ideas and ministries cross borders and the implications of globalization for Christian practice and theology. Topics covered may include televangelism and media, Internet religion, pilgrimage, immigration, refugees and "transplanted" religion, mega-church networks, post-colonial missions and "reverse" missionaries, Pentacostalism and the rise of African and Asian Independent Churches.

RELI 315/4 – A (3 credits) T. 1800-2015
MUSLIM CULTURES OF SOUTH ASIA
(xlisted HIST 398AA)
Instructor: Richard Foltz

About one-third of the world's Muslims live in India, Pakistan, or Bangladesh, making Southern Asia the world region with the largest proportion of Muslims. Yet many aspects of Muslim belief and practice in these countries have a distinctively South Asian flavour and in some cases derive from regional cultural traditions. This course looks at the history of Muslim presence in Southern Asia, including its extensive political and cultural impact from the seventh century to the present, and investigates the complexities of communal identity over the course of that history. The role of Sufism and Muslim contributions to South Asian literature, art, architecture, and music are also explored.

RELI 325/4 – A (3 credits) M.W. 1015-1130
LEADERS, REBELS, AND SAINTS: MOSES
Instructor: Naftali Cohn

This course, which varies in focus from year to year, investigates the lives of controversial or influential women and men in the history of different religious traditions. Going beyond mere biography, the course situates particular figures within their social and cultural contexts, while dealing with how such prominent figures were viewed, portrayed, and used by others. Specific topics for this course are stated in the Undergraduate Class Schedule; examples are Moses, Jesus and Mary.

RELI 329/4 - AA (3 credits) J. ~~1800-2015~~ 20:30 – 22:45
ISRAEL: RELIGION AND STATE
(xlisted POLI 317CB)
Instructor: Ira Robinson

This course studies the emergence and development of the state of Israel, from the beginnings of the Zionist movement to the present time. It also explores the major political, social, and intellectual developments in both the pre- and post-state periods. The role of Judaism within the changing state is a primary focus.

RELI 355/4 – A (3 credits) M.W.1315-1430
RELIGION AND VIOLENCE
Instructor: Sarah Pierce Taylor

This course explores how religion may be seen to engender or exacerbate violence, as well as the ways that religion may critique, prevent or even offer alternatives to violence. Sacred writings, theologies, rituals and communal actions of particular communities are studied, as well as notions of the self, the group, others, outsiders and enemies. In particular, the life-work and writings of such key figures as Mahatma Gandhi and Martin Luther King are studied in order to provide some religious perspectives on the relationship between non-violence and the resistance to injustice. **Note**: *Students who have received credit for this topic under a RELI 398 number may not take this course for credit.*

RELI 364/4 – A (3 credits) M.W. 1145-1300
MAHAYANA BUDDHISM
Instructor: Marc des Jardins

This course studies the origins and evolution of the Mahayana Buddhist in India, and the spread and growth of various Mahayana traditions in East Asia. It examines developments in texts, doctrine, philosophy, ethical ideals, practices (worship and meditation), and institutions.

RELI 380/4 – A (3 credits) W.F. 1015-1130
RELIGION AND SEXUALITY
Instructor:

This course examines, from a comparative and historical perspective, the interplay between religion and sexuality. It looks at the development of attitudes towards sexuality within diverse religious traditions, and religious manifestations of sexuality. Topics include, among others: human reproduction, gender roles and identity, birth control, abortion, celibacy, sexual variance, and homosexuality.

RELI 386/2 - A (3 credits) T.J.0845-1000
WITCHCRAFT, MAGIC AND RELIGION
Instructor:

This course approaches the study of magic, witchcraft, and religion from a variety of perspectives. Taking examples from indigenous cultures, the ancient world, medieval Europe, the early modern period and contemporary movements, the practices and rituals that have been labeled magic or witchcraft are examined, along with the responses to them. The course explores how magicians and witches view themselves, how different cultures relate to them, and how magic, witchcraft, and religion merge and diverge. **Note**: *Students who have received credit for this topic under an RELI 398 number may not take this course for credit.*

RELI 388/4 – A (3 credits) T.J. 1615-1730
THE BIBLE AND SEXUALITY
Instructor: Lucas
This course examines the wide variety of perspectives on sexuality within Scripture. It considers the ancient contexts in which these texts were composed as well as how Jews and/or Christians have read these texts over time, in light of changing notions of sexuality and gender. Among the topics considered are gendered and sexual identities, celibacy, marriage, same-sex relationships, human reproduction and child-rearing, and sexual desire. Ultimately, it addresses how the Bible reflects and has informed the various Jewish and/or Christian perspectives on these issues. **Note**: *Students who have received credit for this topic under a RELI 398 number may not take this course for credit.*

RELI 394/4 – A (3 credits) M.W. 1615-1730
HISTORY OF SATAN
Instructor: Elliot

This course investigates the origins, development, and significance of personified evil,that is Satan and his demons, in early Judaism and in the history of Christianity. Consideration is given to some of the most important literary and visual depictions of this figure and his story from the ancient world through the Middle Ages to present day. The course sheds light on how intellectuals thought of this figure and also how Satan came to play an important role in popular culture down through the centuries. **Note**: *Students who have received credit for this topic under a RELI 398 number may not take this course for credit.*

RELI 398/4-A (3 credits) T.J. 1145-1300
SELECTED TOPICS IN RELIGION
HEBREW BIBLE AND CONTEMPORARY LITERATURE
(xlisted ENGL 398D)
Instructor: Norman Ravvin

This course will introduce students to important literary works of the past century that aim to update, revise or provocatively interrogate established religious texts and narratives. We will discuss the history and literary character of the Hebrew Bible and its influence on literary tradition. We will focus on the way its narratives supply archetypal stories, characters and motifs. The urge to rewrite aspects of the biblical tradition recurs over time, and our era is one of great literary vitality in this area. Students interested in Jewish canonical texts, modern literary canons, popular literature, and the relationship between religious and secular culture will find engaging material in our readings.

RELI 398/4-B (3 credits) M.W. 1615-1730
SELECTED TOPICS IN RELIGION
WOMEN: HINDUISM AND BUDDHISM
Instructor: ~~Sarah Pierce Taylor~~

This course takes as its premise the idea that the nexus of gender and sexuality fundamentally shapes religious practices and belief as well as the lives of women and gender non-conforming people. The central questions guiding this course are: How do religious traditions incorporate sexual practice and/or restraint into a vision of ethical life? When does one's gender become dangerous or unethical? What is the range of women's experience within Hinduism and Buddhism? In pursuing these questions, students will gain a deep familiarity with practices of women's religious asceticism, the place of erotics within religious discourse, new perspectives on queer and transgender theories, emic feminisms, and sexual ethics.

RELI 398/4- D (3 credits) T.J.1015-1130
SELECTED TOPICS IN RELIGION
NORTH AMERICAN JUDAISM
Instructor: Ira Robinson

This course will examine the diversity of interpretation and practice within Judaism in North America, with special reference to the Canadian experience, from the beginnings of the North American Jewish community in the seventeenth century to the present. It will explore the changing roles of religious leadership and synagogues within North American Jewry. It will also examine significant developments in North American Jewish religious and cultural expression in the modern era through a comparison with the development of European Judaism, as well as through a consideration of major trends in the development of religion and religious institutions in North America.

Department of Religion - Timetable Fall 2019

	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI
0845-1000			210		210
10:15-11:30	344	223 331	344	223 331	
11:45-13:00	325 362	378	326 362 220	378	220
13:15-14:30	398A Until 15:30	313 332 372	224	313 332 372	224
14:45-16:00	312 398B	225 381	312 398 B	225 381	
16:15-17:30					
18:00-20:15	300 409	398 AA		383	
20:30-22:45					

Department of Religion - Timetable Winter 2020

	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI
0845-1000		386	215	386	215
10:15-11:30	325	398D	325 380	398D	380
11:45-13:00	310 364	308 398 A	310 364	308 398A	
13:15-14:30	355		355		
14:45-16:00	209	233 311	209	233 311	
16:15-17:30	394 398 B	388	394 398 B	388	
18:00-20:15		315		329 227	
20:30-22:45					